Weekly rainfall and river flow summary

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday 8 to Tuesday 14 October 2014

Summary

It has been a very wet start to October across England, with central, east and southeast England all having received the monthly long term average (LTA) rainfall for October or above in just the first 2 weeks. River flows are **normal** or higher for the time of year at the majority of our indicator sites.

- Rainfall totals for the past week range from 21 mm in northeast England to 53 mm in the southeast (Table 1 and Figure 1).
- At nearly half way through October, rainfall totals for the month to date range from 72% of the October LTA in northeast England to 125% in the east (Table 1).
- River flows have increased at all indicators sites in southern and eastern England while decreasing at most of our indicator sites in northern England (Figure 2).
- The latest daily mean river flows are **normal** or higher for the time of year at all but 3 of our indicator sites, with a third of our indicator sites **above normal** or higher for the time of year. There are now 6 sites that are **exceptionally high** for the time of year, all located in southeast or eastern England (Figure 2).

Outlook

On Thursday afternoon and evening, showers and some longer spells of rain will affect much of England. These showers will clear away on Friday morning to leave a largely dry day until another band of rain moves into western England later in the day. This rain will move south eastwards during Saturday and into Sunday. Monday is expected to start dry before rain moves into northwest England later in the day. Tuesday is expected to remain unsettled.

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Geographic regions	Latest Week: 08 - 14 Oct '14	Latest month to date: Oct '14		Last month: Sep '14		Last 3 months: Jul '14 - Sep '14		Last 6 months: Apr '14 - Sep '14		Last 12 months: Oct '13 - Sep '14	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA	Total (mm)	% LTA
North West	28	90	73	15	14	233	78	424	82	1295	112
North East	21	52	72	19	28	186	90	387	101	958	117
Central	37	60	100	12	20	157	89	354	103	912	128
East	44	63	125	16	32	169	110	324	108	717	120
South East	53	79	113	13	21	158	94	340	103	1049	144
South West	38	81	83	15	18	182	84	434	107	1397	138
England	38	70	92	15	22	177	90	372	101	1026	127

Table 1: Latest rainfall summary information (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright)[1]

[1] Notes:
- LTA = long term average rainfall for 1961 – 1990
- Data for the current month are calculated using MORECS (Met Office Rainfall and Evaporation Calculation System); data for past months are provisional values from the National Climate Information Centre (NCIC).
- The data is rounded to the nearest millimetre or percent (except when values are less than 1).
- Recorded amounts of rainfall are likely to be underestimated during snow events.

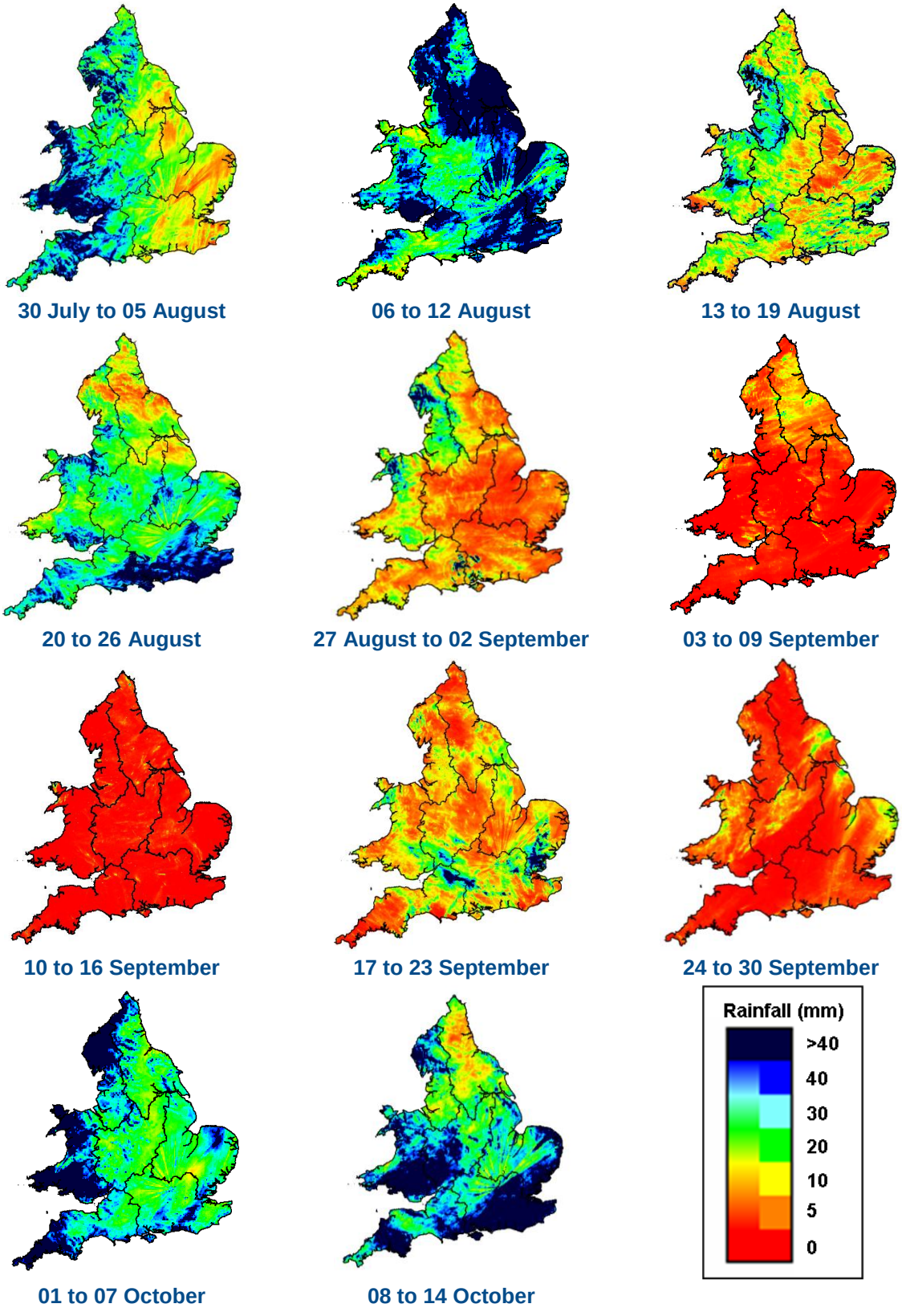
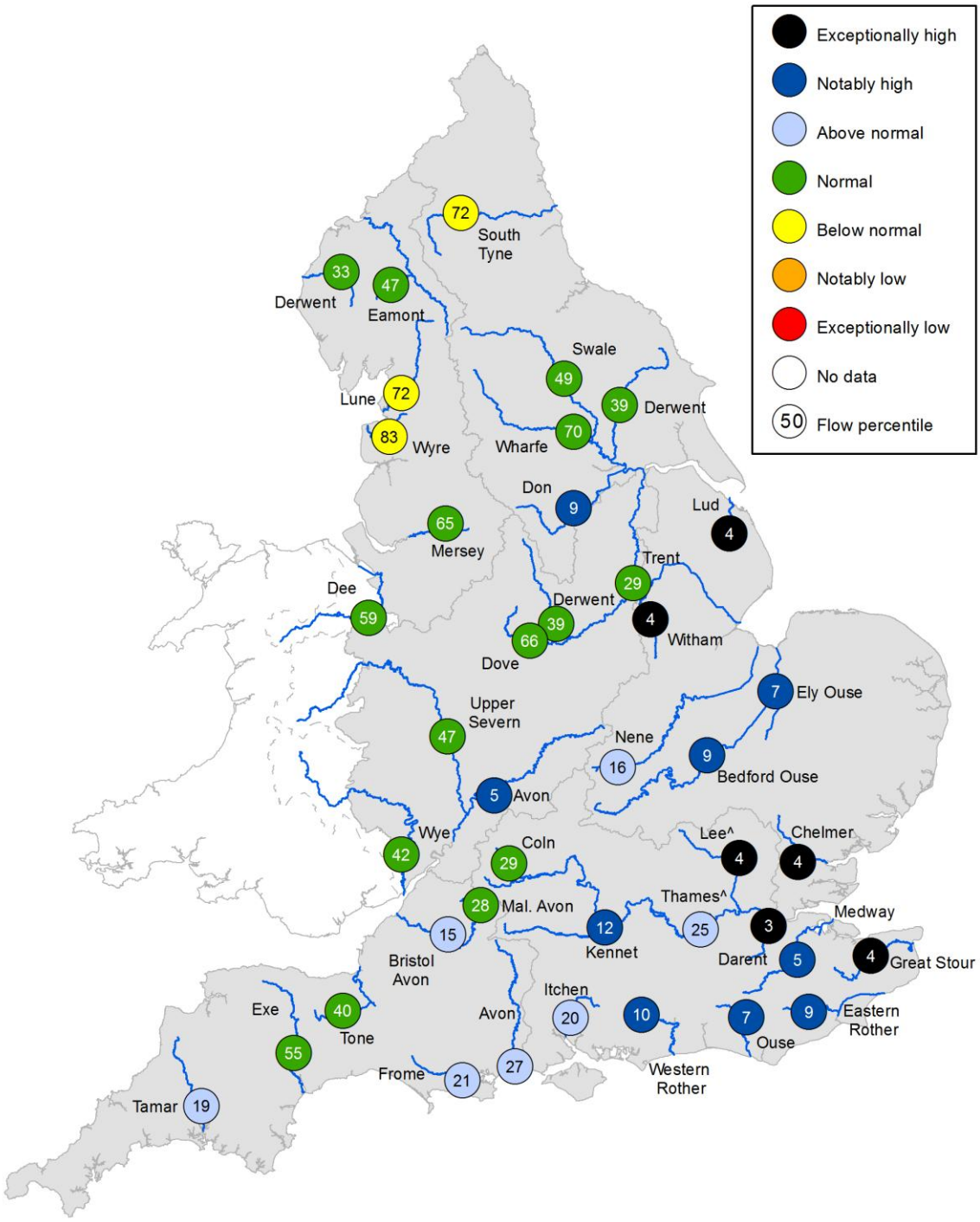


Figure 1: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past eleven weeks. UKPP radar data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2014). Note: Radar beam blockages may give anomalous totals in some areas. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2014.

River Flow



^ – 'Naturalised' flows are provided for the Thames at Kingston and the Lee at Feildes Weir.

Figure 2: Latest daily mean river flow expressed as a percentile[2] and classed relative to an analysis of historic daily mean flows for the same time of year (Source: Environment Agency). Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2014.

[2] Flow percentiles describe the percentage of time that a particular flow has been equalled or exceeded compared to the historic flow record for that site for the time of year. For example, a flow percentile of 5 indicates that the current flow has only been equalled or exceeded approximately 5% of the time within the historic record for that time of year – i.e. a very high flow. A flow percentile of 95 indicates that the current flow has been equalled or exceeded approximately 95% of the time – i.e. a low flow. Flow percentiles presented relate to an analysis for the time of year and not a whole year.